

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A tubular stent comprising first and second ends and being deformable between compressed and expanded configurations, the compressed configuration having a generally constant diameter and a pattern density adjacent the first end that is greater than a pattern density adjacent the second end, the expanded configuration having a transverse dimension at the first end that is larger than a transverse dimension at the second end and having a pattern density adjacent the first end that is substantially equal to a pattern density adjacent the second end, and ~~The stent of claim 1~~ wherein, when in the expanded configuration, the first end is flared to a generally oval transverse section and the second end is generally circular in transverse section such that the stent is adapted for implantation proximally abutting a carina of a vessel bifurcation.

Claim 6 (original): A stent system comprising the stent of claim 5 and at least one tubular stent element distally abutting the first end of the stent.

Claim 7 (original): A stent system comprising the stent of claim 5 mounted, in the compressed configuration, about a balloon inflatably disposed at a distal end of a delivery catheter, the balloon having an inflated shape that is flared to generally match the expanded configuration of the stent.

Claim 8 (original): The stent system of claim 7, the inflated shape of the balloon further having an inverted conical distal end.

Claims 9-15 (canceled)